

INFORMATION REPORT - INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Camouflaged Harbor Basins with Landing Craft in Szczecin	DATE DISTR.	16 November 1955
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DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	25X1
DATE ACQUIRED	This is UNEVALUATED Information		25X1

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. On 12 June 1955 three small basins or canals were observed in Szczecin (Stettin) harbor. The basins' location was on the eastern side of the sailing route across from the former yacht club harbor.
2. The entrances to the basins were closed off or camouflaged by lighters on which green trees and bushes had been placed so that the lighters were undistinguished from the bank which was covered with trees and rush.
3. The middle basin was the biggest, and here [redacted] 70 landing craft and a mother ship for the landing craft. 25X1
4. The landing craft were described as follows: About 30 m. long; 3 - 4 m. wide; drop-stem (?); small wheelhouse astern, low with small windows, possibly armored; brownish gray in color [redacted] (see sketch). 25X1 A few seamen were seen on the landing craft for supervision and inspection work.
5. The mother ship was quite a bit longer and was equipped with heavy cargo gear of six-cut blocks. The mother ship was manned.
6. In the southernmost basin a large number of small landing boats or barges, 10 - 15 m. long, were seen. 25X1
7. The third and northernmost basin contained small naval vessels [redacted] about 20. 25X1

[redacted] Comments:

1.

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[redacted] The landing craft in the middle basin lay in nine groups, each consisting of eight landing craft; however, two ships were missing in one of the nine groups.

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	FEW	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)											

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2. Harbor basins have not previously been observed in this area, but the establishment of such basins during the last few months has been observed in other Polish and East German harbors, for example, Swinoujscie (Swinemuende) and Warnemuende. The basins observed here fit in very well with present Soviet "small base" tactics. These tactics are probably based on the following considerations:

- a. Counter-measure against atomic attacks by scattering possible bombing targets.
- b. The consistent Soviet desire to avoid Western observations. Therefore, special measures must be taken in harbors which are visited often by Western merchant ships.
- c. Transfer of the regular or commercial harbor areas to the local East German or Polish authorities.

3. A number of landing craft as large as here reported has not been observed previously in this area. The landing craft seem to be of an LCM type and may be newly constructed. [redacted] they were all very well kept with regard to paint, etc. A few partly unconfirmed reports have from time to time mentioned the production of landing craft and barges at both Polish and East German river shipyards. However, the extent and type of production is unknown. In the early part of June 1955 four or five landing craft and a mother ship were observed in Swinoujscie. After a few days these vessels disappeared again. It is not impossible that this mother ship or tender may be identical with the vessel seen in the middle basin which [redacted] characterized as a mother ship for landing craft.

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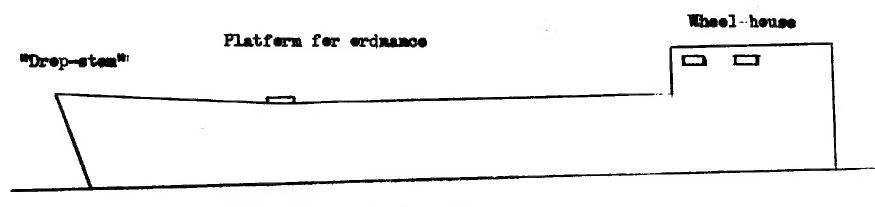
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Approximate appearance of landing craft observed



Cross Section
Width 4-5 m.



Estimated length about 30 m.